

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LAGOS 05008 201642Z
ACTION SS-25

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O 201555Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8030
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

S E C R E T LAGOS 5008

EXDIS

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, NI
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: NIGERIAN ASSESSMENT OF DAR ES SALAAM
CONFERENCE

REF: SECTO 4093

1. SUMMARY. GARBA'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT, BRONSON DEDE, TOLD ME THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE FMG HAS A MORE POSITIVE APPRISAL OF THE DAR ES SALAAM MEETING LAST WEEKEND THAN THE U.S. VIEW WHICH I EXPRESSED TO HIM IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS. HE SAID THE FMG FELT THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAD 'GONE A LONG WAY' AT DAR ES SALAAM TOWARDS ACCEPTING PRINCIPLES OF THE
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ANGGLO-AMERICAN PLAN. DEDE SAID THAT A PERSONAL LETTER FROM GENERAL OBASANJO TO PRESIDENT CARTER IS NOW IN PREPARATION WHICH WILL URGE THE USG TO KEEP UP THE

MOMENTUM OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN. GARBA LEAVES LAGOS THIS AFTERNOON AND WILL ATTEND THE SPECIAL UNGA SESSION ON NAMIBIA. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH COMMISSIONER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS GARBA INVOLVED WITH THE ECOWAS SUMMIT MEETING HERE AND ABOUT TO LEAVE THIS AFTERNOON EN ROUTE TO NEW YORK TO ATTEND THE SPECIAL SESSION ON NAMIBIA, I MADE THE REPRESENTATIONS OUTLINED IN REFTEL THIS AFTERNOON TO BRONSON DEDE. DEDE IS ACCOMPANYING GARBA ON THE TRIP AND SAID HE WOULD PASS THESE OBSERVATIONS ON TO HIM. GARBA EXPECTS TO VISIT KHARTOUM AFTER LEAVING NEW YORK.

3. AFTER HEARING ME OUT, DEDE SAID THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE VERY USEFUL FOR GARBA AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO DISCUSS FUTURE STEPS REGARDING RHODESIA DURING GARBA'S VISIT TO NEW YORK. HE ALSO SAID THAT A PERSONAL LETTER FROM GENERAL OBASANJO TO PRESIDENT CARTER IS NOW IN PREPARATION, THE THRUST OF THE LETTER BEING THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD DO ALL IT CAN TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT MOMENTUM OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN.

4. DEDE SAID THAT THE FMG'S ASSESSMENT OF THE DAR ES SALAAM MEETING IS MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN THAT WHICH I HAD JUST PRESENTED. THE FMG CONSIDERS THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT "WENT A LONG WAY" TOWARDS ACCEPTING THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN. HE WAS THINKING SPECIFICALLY OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER AND OF THE NEED FOR
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A UN FORCE, ALBEIT "UNDER A PROPER MANDATE." AS FOR THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, THE FMG FELT CONFIDENT THAT THERE WERE GOOD POSSIBILITIES FOR NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE NUMBERS ENVISAGED BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THOSE ENVISAGED BY THE US-UK. THE FMG UNDERSTOOD THE POSITION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT THAT IT COULD NOT REVEAL ITS BOTTOM LINE AT DAR ES SALAAM AS LONG AS THE US AND UK WERE UNABLE, FOR QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE REASONS, TO COMMIT THEMSELVES PRIOR TO THE ALL-PARTIES MEETING TO ACCEPT THAT FORMULA.

5. AS FOR THE POLICE FORCE, THE FMG DID NOT CONSIDER THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS INSISTING ON A COMPLETE REORGANIZATION. IT CONSIDERED THE INTEGRATED POLICE FORCE ENVISAGED BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS A SENSIBLE APPROACH. THE CONCEPT OF THREE MEN IN A JEEP APPEARED MORE COMPATIBLE WITH THE CONCEPT OF NEUTRALITY THAN WOULD BE PRIMARY RELIANCE UPON THE PRESENT POLICE FORCE.

6. DEDE ACKNOWLEDGED AND AGREED THAT SOME OF MUGABE'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS REGARDING RHODESIA MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE US AND UK GOVERNMENTS TO OBTAIN PUBLIC SUPPORT

FOR THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN.

7. DEDE EMPHASIZED THAT THE FMG HAS NO DESIRE TO BRING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT OR ANY OTHER PARTICULAR POLITICAL GROUP INTO POWER IN RHODESIA. IT THOROUGHLY AGREES WITH THE UG THAT THE CHOICE OF LEADERSHIP SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE DECISION OF THE RHODESIAN PEOPLE AS EXPRESSED LENN FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS. HE REFERRED IN THIS CONNECTION TO THE DISCUSSION WHICH HAD OCCURRED AT THE OAU SUMMIT IN LIBREVILLE LAST AUGUST. SOME AFRICAN STATES HAD WANTED THE OAU TO ENDORSE "POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT" OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, BUT GENERAL OBASANJO HAD INTRODUCED THE AMENDMENT WHICH DELETED THE REFERENCE TO POLITICAL SUPPORT.

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8. COMMENT: DEDE IS VERY CLOSE TO GARBA AND FOLLOWS RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS. I WOULD EXPECT THAT THE VIEWS HE EXPRESSED TODAY ARE CLOSE TO THOSE OF GARBA ON THE SUBJECT.

9. I AM INFORMING THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER OF MY DEMARCHE AND DEDE'S RESPONSE.

WYMAN

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NNN

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